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HK extends quarantine for arrivals from mainland, Macau, Taiwan to August 7

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The Hong Kong government announced in a statement yesterday that it has extended its 14-day mandatory quarantine for all arrivals from the mainland, Macau and Taiwan for one more month to August 7.

Since March 25, all those – both Hong Kong and non-Hong Kong residents – arriving in Hong Kong from Macau or Taiwan must go into 14-day mandatory quarantine. The Hong Kong government had already imposed the same quarantine measure for those arriving from the mainland on February 8.

Also since March 25, Macau residents as well as mainland, Hong Kong and Taiwan residents who have been to Hong Kong or Taiwan within the past 14 days prior to their entry into Macau must undergo 14 days of quarantine and medical observation at one of the government's "quarantine hotels" upon their arrival here.

Foreign visitors have been barred from entering Macau since March 18, and the entry ban was extended to cover all foreign nationals – including foreign non-resident workers – the following day.

Arrivals from the mainland – except from Beijing as well as non-resident workers not living in Zhuhai – do not need to go into quarantine in Macau upon their arrival here.

Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng announced the Macau government's quarantine measure for arrivals from Hong Kong and Taiwan during a press conference on March 24, after his Hong Kong counterpart Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor announced the Hong Kong government's quarantine measure for those arriving from Macau and Taiwan during a press conference on the previous day.

The Hong Kong government's 14-day mandatory quarantine for arrivals from the mainland, Macau and Taiwan was initially slated to expire on May 7, but afterwards it was extended for one month to June 7 and then extended by one more month to July 7, before yesterday's announcement which said that it would be extended for one more month to August 7.

Yesterday's statement said that "in addition to implementing social distancing measures in the community, limiting the movement of people between Hong Kong and other places and implementing compulsory quarantine or other infection control measures are integral parts of Hong Kong's strategy for combating the [COVID-19] epidemic."

"The [Hong Kong] government has been working closely with the relevant authorities of Guangdong province and the Macau Special Administrative Region on the mutual recognition of [COVID-19] test results and the mutual exemption from compulsory quarantine under the

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framework of joint prevention and control. Subject to the [COVID-19] epidemic situation, we [the Hong Kong government] will consider relaxing the restrictions on cross-boundary movement of people among the three places within certain limits in order to facilitate those with essential needs to travel between Guangdong and Hong Kong or between Hong Kong and Macau,” the statement said.

The statement pointed out that the Hong Kong government will still need time to amend its quarantine rules for arrivals from Guangdong and Macau for the implementation of the possible new arrangements concerning cross-boundary movement of people among Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau, adding that therefore it has decided to extend the quarantine measure for one more month to August 7.

The statement also said that “It has come to our [the Hong Kong government’s] attention that the [COVID-19] epidemic in many overseas countries has rebounded with a drastic increase in new cases after the relaxation of social distancing measures, necessitating reintroduction of such measures. As such, we [the Hong Kong government] will continue to closely monitor the development of the epidemic situation and review the various measures in place from time to time with a view to making suitable adjustments taking into account all relevant factors. We [the government] also strongly urge the public to stay vigilant, maintain an appropriate social distance with other people as far as possible in their daily lives to minimise the risk of outbreak clusters emerging in the community.”

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TODAY'S COVER



Quarantine lifted for mainland non-resident workers



F1 anti-racism ceremony needs better coordination - Hamilton

Formula 1 driver Lewis Hamilton said the anti-racism ceremony at the British Grand Prix needed better coordination. Hamilton, who is a vocal supporter of the Black Lives Matter movement, said the ceremony was a good start but needed more planning for the future.

Laws against COVID-19 in HK now spreading 'out of control'

Some people in Hong Kong are spreading rumors that the government's measures to control the spread of COVID-19 are excessive and that the laws are being used to suppress freedom of expression.

Man questioned in arson probe into French cathedral blaze

A man has been questioned by police in connection with the fire at the Notre-Dame de la Vierge cathedral in France. The fire caused significant damage to the historic building.

Angola signs deal using Chinese laboratory to battle COVID-19

Angola has signed a deal with China to use a Chinese laboratory to test for COVID-19. The deal is part of a larger agreement between the two countries to combat the virus.

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